



# CITY OF TORRANCE

## PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

**Robert J. Beste**  
Public Works Director

September 14 through December 11, 2015

Dear Customer:

Manganese has been detected in groundwater from Well 9 at concentrations that exceed Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL) of 50 parts per billion as set forth by the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water. The City is required to test manganese quarterly, and compliance is by a running annual average. The City's running annual averages of four consecutive quarterly manganese samples exceeded the manganese SMCL in the third and fourth quarters of 2014.

Exceeding the manganese SMCL does NOT pose a health risk. The manganese SMCL was established to protect you against unpleasant aesthetic effects such as color, taste, odor, and possible staining of plumbing fixtures and clothing when washed.

The City uses chemical sequestration, which does not remove manganese from water. Instead it prevents manganese from precipitating out and creating adverse aesthetic effects, such as colored water and turbidity (cloudy water). The corrosion inhibitor currently used by the City has a polyphosphate component that bonds with manganese to prevent it from precipitating.

The City is currently researching treatment options as well as preparing a customer survey to continue to use the sequestering methods currently in process.

High manganese concentrations are caused by the leaching of natural deposits, meaning that manganese occurs naturally in some soil and can be picked up by the groundwater. Aesthetic effects associated with manganese can be minimized by limiting the use of wells with high manganese concentrations, treating the water by filtration, or adding a sequestering agent to prevent it from staining plumbing fixtures and clothing.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Andy Darlak or Alan Berndt at (310) 781-6900.